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Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 H-02 NSC-05 COME-00 TRSE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 ICA-20 SP-02
/069 W
----------042854 260912Z /10
R 260803Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9093

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: JA, OVIP (NAKANO, SHIRO)
SUBJECT: LOWER HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE MISSION TO U.S.

REF: TOKYO 11313

1. IN MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR, LOWER HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SHIRO NAKANO SAID SEVEN MOST SENIOR MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE TRAVELING TO U.S. TOGETHER FOR FIRST TIME JULY 11-19 AS SUPRA-PARTISAN MISSION IN ORDER TO STUDY WORKINGS OF CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS OF 1974 BUDGET ACT AND TO ANALYZE EFFECTIVENESS OF RECENT U.S. TAX CUTS AND REBATES IN STIMULATING LAGGING CONSUMER DEMAND. (NAKANO SAID SIZE OF TAX REBATE WOULD BE MAJOR ISSUE FACING EXTRAORDINARY DIET SESSION LATER THIS YEAR.) NAKANO INDICATED MISSION ALSO WISHED TO DISCUSS GENERAL STATE OF BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON AGRICULTURAL TRADE PROBLEMS AND EXCHANGE RATE FLUCTUATIONS. NAKANO SAID (AS HAD REPRESENTATIVES OF SEPARATE LDP MISSION WHO CALLED LAST WEEK) THAT PRIMIN FUKUDA SUGGESTED THAT HE ENLIST SUPPORT OF AMB IN ARRANGING APPOINTMENTS WITH VICE PRESIDENT AND RANKING CONGRESSMEN.

2. AMB, WHILE WELCOMING VISIT AND EMPHASIZING IMPORTANCE
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OF INCREASED CONTACTS BETWEEN U.S. AND JAPANESE LEGISLATORS, SAID HE ASSUMED JAPANESE EMBASSY WASHINGTON WOULD PLAY ACTIVE ROLE IN ARRANGING APPOINTMENTS. AMB SUGGESTED THAT GROUP ASK TO SEE SENATORS MUSKIE AND BELLMON OF SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEE AND CONGRESSMAN GIAMO OF HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE, SENATOR RIBICOFF OF SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND CONGRESSMEN ULMAN, VANIK AND CONABLE OF

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HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE. AMB ALSO SUGGESTED THAT DELEGATION SEEK APPOINTMENTS WITH CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE DIRECTOR ALICE RIVLIN AND OMB OFFICIAL. AMB WARNED THAT BECAUSE CONGRESSMEN WOULD BE EXTREMELY BUSY IN MID-JULY CONSIDERING KEY BILLS IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE SOME OF THESE APPOINTMENTS.

3. MISSION WILL CONSIST OF LDP REPRESENTATIVES SHIRO NAKANO, MATSUHEI MORI (FORMER ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTER) AND MUTSUKI KATO, JSP REPRESENTATIVES TSUNEHIKO ANTAKU AND SHUN OIDE, DSP REPRESENTATIVE MAGOICHI TAKEMOTO AND KOMEITO REPRESENTATIVE ICHIRO WATANABE AS WELL AS TWO DIET SECRETARIES AND AN OFFICIAL OF MINISTRY OF FINANCE'S BUDGET BUREAU.

4. COMMENT: WE REALIZE THAT MAIN BURDEN FOR ARRANGING THESE CONGRESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS RIGHTLY FALLS ON JAPANESE EMBASSY. EMBOFFS HAVE MADE THIS POINT REPEATEDLY IN LAST WEEK TO DIET STAFFERS AND TO FONOFF AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU. NEVERTHELESS, IN ORDER TO FACILITATE OUR CONTACTS WITH VERY SIGNIFICANT GROUP OF LOWER HOUSE MEMBERS, BEFORE GROUP DEPARTS IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO RECEIVE SOME INDICATION APPOINTMENTS WHICH IT CAN EXPECT TO HAVE IN WASHINGTON. MANSFIELD

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